Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: That is in terms of area and not in terms of people?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Pople also.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether there is an order of Government regarding rations to soldiers who are on leave allowing them 1½ times the usual ration.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I do not think there is any such order. You mean their families?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: It is for the soldier himself.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED FROM EACH PANCHAYAT AREA—FUNCTIONING OF

102. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Will Government be pleased to state if the Committee appointed by the Government in its Proceedings dated 18th October 1942, P. 13-28800/17, from each Panchayat area in the State to assist and advise the official staff of the Fair Price Shop Scheme in the State is functioning?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The Committees appointed in Government Proceedings P. 13-28800/17, dated 28th October 1942 are functioning.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I take it that the date "28th" in the answer is a misstatement for the "18th".

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: "28th" is the correct date.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether members of these Ration Committees can be appointed as Fair Price shop licensees?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is no fixed rule as regards that. It so happens in very rare cases one or two members do happen to run licensed shops.

REASONS FOR PROHIBITING THE EXPORT OF BANANAS AND YAM

103. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the reasons for passing a notification prohibiting the export of bananas and yam from the State;

(*b*) has the Government considered that the producers of bananas would be hard hit by this notification;

(*c*) has the Director of Food Supplies ever visited Meloor and Pariyaram the centre of banana cultivation and consulted the producers before passing this Notification?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) In order to conserve the available produce in the State for the consumption of the people here.

(*b*) Government considered the matter. It was thought necessary to impose the ban in the interests of the general public.

(*c*) No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether the Government are aware that considerable want of bananas coming from Chenganasseri District to Ernakulam and Mattancheri is felt?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: As a result of this notification, the Travancore Government have taken reciprocal action and they stopped the sending of bananas.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: That is not as a result of our notification. It is because they wanted to conserve bananas for their use.

ROAD TO TRICHUR AND MALAYATTUR FROM ERNAKULAM—CONDITION OF

104. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the extreme difficulties for travelling by road felt by persons who go to Trichur and Malayattur from Ernakulam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The roads are in a fairly good condition.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Are the Government aware that for going from Ernakulam to Trichur and Malayattur we have to pass through Travancore roads?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The Travancore roads are now in good condition.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government made any report to the Travancore Government so that they may be pleased to repair those roads?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: This Government had requested the Travancore Government to repair those roads, and in response to that request, the Travancore Government have repaired those roads.

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Mr. President: The answer of the Government is that these roads are in good condition.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Have any officers of the Government visited these roads to Malayattur and Trichur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I inspected both the roads from Ernakulam to Trichur and also the road from Ernakulam to Malayattur. The roads are in very good condition.

MACHAD—THANIKUDAM ROAD

105. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the cost report of the Machad—Thanikudam road (the road connecting Talappalli and Trichur via Machad;

(*b*) was the work ever provided for in any of the Government Budgets; if so, when;

(*c*) has the work of the road connection been taken up?

Mr. V K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) The cost report prepared in 1111 comes to Rs. 31,000.

(*b*) A provision of Rs. 31,000 was made in the last Road Board programme.

(*c*) No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know when the provision of Rs. 31,000 was made?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I take it that it was provided on that side of six years, approximately?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The last Road Board Programme of 1112 to 1116. It was in that period that this road was first proposed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Shall I be justified, Sir, in stating that the programme was prepared in 1111. It is stated that the programme was prepared for the period 1112 to 1116. Naturally it should have been prepared at a period prior to 1112.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, what stands in the way of Government in not spending this 31,000 rupees for this road during the course of these 7 or 8 years.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In th last Road Programme as I already informed the House, provision was made for constructing this road from Machad to Trichur. But alignment of the road passed through an area which was proposed to be made into a reservoir for storing water. So that it was thought by the Board that instead of spending the money on that road before the question of the construction of the reservoir was taken up it will be ill-advised to do so, because the road will be flooded if it was constructed before the reservoir was constructed. I may inform the House also that in the next Road Board Programme provision has been made for that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the consideration of Government of Cochin has been spent on this subject subsequent to the Budget Session of 1118?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* On which please?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* On the road being taken up, Sir. Has the mind of the Government been applied to this question subsequent to the Budget Session of 1118?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The Road Board constituted by Government have now approved of this proposal and they have made provision for the construction of this road in their report.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* My question is whether the mind of the Government of Cochin had been applied to this subject subsequent to the last day of the Budget Session in Karkadagam, *i.e.*, in August and before to-day.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, where it stands?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is what I was telling you. The question of this road construction has been provided in the Road Board Programme for next year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know when this work will be started?

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